Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
By
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And
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HB 1204 HD1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaiʻi, College of Education supports the intent of HB 1204 HD1 and offers comments. This measure would establish a public-school scholarship program. This scholarship program shall cover the cost of tuition for four years leading to a bachelor's degree in teaching, provided that the candidate remains in good academic standing. In return the student must commit to teaching in a public-school classroom of the department of education.

We offer the following comments:

Service Obligation requirements
    Students will need to complete seven out of ten years of teaching following graduation and obtain a license from the Hawaiʻi Teacher Standards Board. The COE offers a suggestion whereby a ratio or years of service for each year served be the foundation of determining service obligations requirements. For instance, for any federal personnel preparation grant, scholars are required to fulfill a ratio of 2:1 (two years for every year of funding). There may be students who have elected to enroll later and therefore receive less than the four-year allotment.

Admission Requirements; Policy and Procedures for implementation

(a) The COE supports the establishment of the public education scholarship program. The COE will work with the HIDOE, and University of Hawaii's Outreach College to promote a pathway for a scholarship program.
(b) The COE requests resources to be provided in order to address the admission requirements, policy and procedures, and monitoring of students prior to admission, during the program, and upon completion. The monitoring system is needed to ensure candidates are completing their service obligation.

Thank you for opportunity to provide comments on HB 1204 HD1.